

Serial No. 09/063,289
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-11 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for accessing and manipulating time-based data of at least two differing data types, comprising:

selecting a first time-based data source comprising a first data type from a selection of available data sources;

positioning a first clip object representing the first time-based data source with respect to a local time line to define a start time and duration [relative to] on the local time line for accessing the first time-based data source;

selecting a second time-based data source from the selection of available data sources, wherein the second time-based data source [being] is of a different data type than the first time-based data source;

positioning a second clip object representing the second time-based data source with respect to the local time line to define a start time and duration [relative to] on the local time line for accessing the second time-based data source;

creating at least one meta-clip object representing the local time line and the first and second clip objects positioned [relative thereto] on the local time line, wherein the at least one meta-clip object [being] is positionable with respect to a global time line of an edit, distinct from the local time line, such that the start time and duration of each of the first and second clip objects in the at least one meta-clip are re-mapped to the global time line upon the at least one meta-clip being positioned [relative to] on the global time line; and

adding the at least one meta-clip object to the selection of available data sources.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1 wherein at least one of [said] the first and second available data sources comprises a first meta-clip object, wherein each time-based data source in [said] the first meta-clip object [being] is mapped to [said] the time line of [said] the at least one meta-clip object and, in turn, to [said] the global time line.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1 further comprising the steps of selecting and applying at least one operator to one or more of [said] the first and second time-

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based data sources to modify data therefrom, [said] wherein the at least one operator [being] is positioned [relative to said] on the time line and wherein the [said] operators [comprising] include at least one of a filter and an effect.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of defining in a nonlinear editing system an editing comprising time-based data of at least two differing data types disposed [relative to] on a global time line, comprising:

creating at least one meta-clip object each comprising a respective local time line distinct from the global time line, a first clip object representing a first time-based data source selected from a list of available data sources, and a second clip object representing a second time-based data source selected from the list of available data sources, wherein the second data source [being] is of a different data type than the first data source, and wherein the first and second clip objects [being] are positioned [relative to] on the local time line to define a respective start time and duration [relative to] on the local time line for accessing each selected data source;

adding the at least one meta-clip object to the list of available data sources;

selecting at least one of the meta-clip objects from the list of available data sources and positioning the at least one selected meta-clip object with respect to the global time line; and

re-mapping to the global time line the start time and duration of the clip objects comprising each selected meta-clip object in accordance with the position of each selected meta-clip object [relative to] on the global time line.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 4 wherein at least one of [said] the first and second available data sources comprises a first meta-clip object, wherein each time-based data source in [said] the first meta-clip object [being] is re-mapped to [said] the time line of [said] the at least one meta-clip object and, in turn, to [said] the global time line.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 4 further comprising the steps of selecting and applying at least one operator to one or more of [said] the first and second time-based data sources to modify data therefrom, [said] wherein the at least one operator [being] is positioned [relative to said] on the time line and [said] wherein the operators [comprising] include at least one of a filter and an effect.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 4 further comprising the steps of selecting and applying at least one operator to [said] the at least one meta-clip object to modify data from at least one of the time-based data sources thereby represented, [said] wherein the at least one operator [being] is positioned [relative to said] on the global time line and [said] wherein the operators [comprising] include at least one of a filter and an effect.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein [said] the at least one operator functions to modify data from each time-based data source represented by [said] the meta-clip.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of, when the duration of [said] the at least one meta-clip object is shortened:

(a) examining each clip object represented by [said] the meta-clip object to determine if any portion of the data source represented by [said] the clip object is outside of [said] the altered duration; and

(b) marking any such determined portion inactive to prevent data from [said] the data source within [said] the portion from being included in [said] the edit.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of, when the duration of [said] the at least one meta-clip object is lengthened:

(a) examining each clip object represented by [said] the meta-clip object to determine if any portion of the data source represented by [said] the clip object which was previously outside of [said] the altered duration is now inside; and

(b) marking any such determined portion active to allow data from [said] the data source within [said] the portion to be included in [said] the edit.

11. (Currently Amended) A non-linear editing system for creating an edit by accessing and manipulating time-based data of at least two differing data types, comprising:

a storage device to store time-based data sources of at least two different types;
a computer operatively connected to the storage device to access the time-based data sources stored therein;

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at least one output device to display to a user a graphical user interface of a program for non-linear editing executed by the computer and to output a result of the edit to the user; and

at least one user input device to receive input for the program from the user, wherein the input [being] is configured to:

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create with the computer at least one meta-clip object each comprising a respective local time line, a first clip object representing a first one of the stored data sources, a second clip object representing a second one of the stored data sources, wherein the second data source [being] is of a different data type than the first data source, and wherein the first and second clip objects [being] are positioned [relative to] on the local time line to define a respective start time and duration [relative to] on the local time line for accessing each data source;

select with the computer at least one of the meta-clip objects; and

define with the computer the positioning of each selected meta-clip object [relative to] on a global time line distinct from the local time lines so as to initiate re-mapping of the start time and duration of each of the clip objects represented by the meta-clip objects according to the relative position of the local time lines and the global time line.